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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named
Inventor : Jeffrey S. Brown

Appln. No.: 09/878,499

Filed : June 11, 2001

For : HARD MACRO HAVING IMPROVED
PORT ROUTING

Docket No.: L13.12-0154/00-674

Group Art Unit: 2825

Examiner: A. Thompson

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AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING
SENT BY U.S. MAIL, FIRST CLASS, TO THE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, THIS

5TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2002.

[Signature]
PATENT ATTORNEY

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on July 18, 2002, in which claims 1-5 were rejected. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

HARD MACRO HAVING IMPROVED PORT ROUTING FOR AVOIDANCE OF ANTENNA
RULE VIOLATIONS

IN THE CLAIMS

- Sub (B1)
A1
1. A hard macro for use in an Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC), comprising:
an input/output (I/O) port having a port level metallic conductor in a low level metalization layer;
an I/O transistor having a gate conductor separated from a diffusion region by a gate oxide layer;
a top level metallic conductor of a highest level metalization layer that is electrically coupled to a diffusion region; and